

DR. GEORGE WELLS, VETERAN PHYSICIAN, CLAIMED BY DEATH

Leader Of Anne Arundel Democracy Passes Away At Early Hour Sunday Morning

CLERK OF COURT
FOR OVER 23 YEARS

Honored By City, County And State. Leadership In Political World Recognized

Dr. George Wells, for over twenty-three years Clerk of the Court for Anne Arundel County, veteran physician, and leader of Anne Arundel Democracy for more than half a century, died at an early hour yesterday morning at his late residence on Charles street. At the time of his death his niece, Miss Carrie Wilcox, of Washington, and a few of his faithful friends, were at his bedside.

Dr. Wells has been in failing health for some months, but has been up and about and was on the streets less than a month ago. Death was due to a complication of diseases, from which he has been a sufferer for some years. With that spirit of endurance and determination to fight to the last ditch, that characterized the man, he never gave up, and was only confined to his bed about thirty-six hours before the end came. He died as he said he wanted to, before he was a care to anyone. On Friday night he was carried up stairs by his attendants. He said then he realized he would never come down alive, as he had always walked up before. After he was put to bed he collapsed, and lapsed into unconsciousness, never rallying again.

In the death of Dr. Wells Annapolis loses one of its most charitable citizens. No man in this community has dispensed charity, to both white and colored, with a more generous hand, than Dr. Wells, whose policy was "never to let his right hand know what his left hand did."

Dr. Wells was a bachelor. His nearest surviving relatives are a brother, John B. Wells, Collector and Treasurer of Annapolis, a niece, Miss Grace Wilcox, and a nephew, Mr. George Wilcox, of this city. A sister, Miss Annie Wells, who had kept house for him for many years, died about two years ago. A few years ago Dr. Wells had his tombstone erected in St. Anne's Cemetery. On it appears the inscription of his sister's death, and all except the date of his own death.

The death of Dr. Wells removes from the State's political arena one of its most interesting as well as one of



DR. GEORGE WELLS

its most militant figures. For Dr. Wells was a fighter. He fought his way up to the control of his party organization in the county and almost from the first was compelled to fight to keep that control. The most vigorous campaigns were made against him, time and again, movement after movement was started to dislodge him from his political trenches, and the fights within the party in Anne Arundel were always more bitter than the fights between the parties. But Dr. Wells kept his grip on the organization through thick and thin after he once got a firm hold on it, and thereafter was never defeated.

The last notable move of Dr. Wells in the politics of Anne Arundel occurred late in the summer of 1917 and resulted in the elevation of Judge Robert Moss, the long time political enemy of the doctor to the Bench.

Dr. Wells was honored by the State Convention in 1884 as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He served as county treasurer for the two years of 1887-1888, and a continuance of the confidence of the people in him was demonstrated by his election in 1895 to the position of Clerk of the Court for Anne Arundel County, which he held at the time of his death, a period covering 23 years.

Dr. Wells represented Anne Arundel County as a member of the State Central Committee. He was only once defeated for office and that was when he ran for Congress in 1894 and was defeated by his opponent, Charles E. Coffin, of Prince George County.

Dr. Wells was held in the highest esteem by all classes, politically and socially. He was of a very unassuming nature, and of a generous fidelity

to the interests of the people. In every position he held, his administration was clean, upright and thoroughly business-like, every detail of his office being looked after with the most exacting care, with the result that no unprejudiced resident of Anne Arundel County can truthfully say anything but words of praise of his administration in office.

Dr. George Wells was born in the city of Annapolis in 1844, and had resided here all his life. He received his education at St. John's College, and was a graduate of medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of New York, having received his diploma therefrom in 1867. Immediately after his graduation he went to France, where he spent nearly a year. Returning to his native city he was elected a member of the City Council a year after his graduation. After a faithful public service in the City Council, he was again honored by the people with a seat in the House of Delegates, which he held for two terms. He was elected to the State Senate in 1890.

Arrangements have been made for the funeral to take place from St. Anne's Protestant Episcopal Church at 3 o'clock, tomorrow afternoon.

CLASS IN ORATORY

The class in Oratory being formed, Miss Anne Rockwell Stewart, instructor, is expected to be started this month and will continue until May. The cost is thirty dollars per capita, and all contemplating joining the class are requested to notify Mrs. Dashiell, Miss Katherine Walton or Mrs. Abram Moss.